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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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WORLD COTTON PROSPECTS

Summary

The world production of all cotton in 1933-34 has been tentatively estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at 25,500,000 bales of 478 pounds. This estimate represents an increase of 1,900,000 bales over the small crop of 1932-33 which is now estimated at 23,600,000 bales, but is 2,000,000 bales less than the estimated world production in 1931-32, and is less than the average production during the 5 years ended 1932-33. This season's domestic crop is now estimated at 13,177,000 bales which, when deducted from the estimated world total, leaves an estimated production in foreign countries of 12,323,000 bales compared with an estimate of 10,598,000 bales last season, 10,405,000 bales two season's ago and 11,868,000 bales in 1930-31.

In Egypt where the greatest increase is occurring the crop is now estimated at 1,819,000 bales compared with 1,028,000 bales in 1932-33, and an average for the 5 years ended 1930-31 of 1,600,000 bales. This large increase over last season is due both to increased acreage and increased yields per acre. The Chinese crop is expected to be unusually large this season and the Indian crop is estimated by the Bureau at 4,000,000 bales which is 221,000 bales larger than last year but is still considerably smaller than the average production for the 10 years prior to the depression of 4,451,000 bales. The Brazilian crop is expected to be considerably larger than last season due both to increased yields and increased acreage. Mexico and a number of the smaller producing countries are also expected to show increases this season.

The Bureau tentatively estimates the 1933-34 world acreage at 74,700,000 acres compared with a revised estimate for last season of 76,500,000 acres, and is the smallest since 1923-24. This is due to the fact that the 1933-34 United States acreage is estimated at 4,795,000 acres less than last season and the smallest since 1921-22. The estimated foreign acreage is 44,556,000 acres compared with 40,561,000 acres in 1932-33, 42,095,000 acres in 1931-32 and 41,646,000 acres in 1930-31. The greatest increase in actual acreage this season is in India where the area in cotton is expected to be around 2,000,000 acres larger than last season. This is a relative increase, however, of only 9 percent. In Egypt the acreage was increased 65 percent, due partly to the removal of the acreage restriction law which had reduced the previous season's acreage to unusually low levels. The Egyptian acreage, therefore, while greatly above last season, is below the levels existing before the depression.

Prices

On November 16 cotton prices in domestic markets in terms of currency reached the highest levels recorded since the first week of the season, the average of Middling 7/8 inch cotton in the 10 designated markets on that day being 10.03 cents. The price on November 16 was about 7/8 cents per pound higher than on November 7, 10 days earlier. A substantial part of this rather marked rise was apparently due to the further depreciation in the foreign exchange value of the dollar. During the latter half of November, however, domestic prices declined about ½ cent per pound, this being associated with an appreciation of the dollar in foreign exchange and declining prices of other commodities and of stock quotations. During the first 20 days of December domestic cotton prices have remained unusually steady. During this period the average daily price of Middling 7/8 in the 10 markets ranged between 9-5/8 and 9-7/8 cents per pound. During December 1932 the price of Middling 7/8 in the 10 markets was around 5½ to 6 cents.

The average United States farm price of cotton on November 15 was 9.6 cents per pound compared with 9.0 cents in October, 5.9 cents in November 1932 and 6.1 cents in November 1931. The November 15 farm price was the highest farm price recorded for any month since March 1931 with the exception of the price of 10.6 recorded in July 1933.

During recent weeks spot prices have been very high in relation to futures quotations due to the 10-cent loan on cotton being made by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Stocks and Movement

Apparent supply of American cotton remaining in United States

On December 1 the apparent supply of American cotton remaining in the United States was approximately 15,900,000 bales, the December estimate of production plus the carry-over at the beginning of the season amounting to about 21,300,000 bales and the disappearance (domestic consumption plus exports) from August 1 to December 1 amounting to about 5,400,000 bales. The apparent supply on December 1, 1932 was 17,250,000 bales and on December 1, 1931, 18,600,000 bales. The decline in the figure for December 1, 1933 as compared with 1932 resulted from both a smaller carry-over at the beginning of the season and a larger disappearance (consumption plus exports) during the first 4 months of this season as compared with the corresponding months of last season. The 1933 crop as estimated at present is 450,000 bales larger than the crop estimate of December 1, 1932.

If from the estimated supply of American cotton in the United States on December 1, the stocks of American cotton in public storage and at compresses and stocks at mills are deducted, the remainder gives an estimate of the amount of cotton "elsewhere" in the United States. The cotton located "elsewhere" (that is, stocks outside of public warehouses, compresses, and mills) includes in addition to the cotton on farms, which constitutes the most important quantity, cotton for export, on shipboard but not cleared; cotton coastwise; and cotton in transit to ports, interior towns, and mills. The figure includes that part of the crop which has not been harvested or ginned but which is expected to be harvested, as estimated by the Crop Reporting Board. The estimated stocks "elsewhere" in the United States on December 1 this season amounted to 4,024,000 bales compared with 5,178,000 bales a year earlier, 6,520,000 bales on December 1, 1931 and 4,036,000 bales at the beginning of December 1930. The estimated "elsewhere" figure for December 1 this year represented 25 percent of the total apparent supply, whereas last year it represented 30 percent of the total, on December 1, 1931, 35 percent, and on December 1, 1930, 29 percent. There are two reasons why the elsewhere figure on December 1 represents an unusually small percentage of the total, first, there was an unusually large proportion of the crop which had been harvested and ginned up to December 1 this year and, second, the fact that many farmers have obtained loans of 10 cents per pound on their cotton through the Farm Credit Administration, and in order to do so it is necessary to store the cotton in public warehouses. Prior to this year it has been felt that these "elsewhere" figures gave a rough index of stocks of cotton in the hands of farmers, either in the form of baled cotton or unharvested and unginned cotton. This year, however, an unusually large amount of the cotton in public warehouses represents cotton which farmers have obtained loans on but which they still own.

Exports of American cotton

The 915,000 running bales of American cotton exported during November represented a decrease of 97,000 bales compared with November 1932 and 156,000 bales compared with November 1931. However, exports from August 1 to November 30 totaled 3,360,000 bales compared with 3,206,000 bales during the like period last season, 2,854,000 bales during the first 4 months of 1931-32 and were the largest for the period since 1928-29.

Japan continued to take very large amounts of American cotton. Total exports to Japan for the first 4 months of the season amounted to 802,000 bales compared with 643,000 bales during the like period last season and 678,000 bales during the first 4 months of 1931-32. Exports to Japan during these 4 months this season were the largest for a similar period in history. The United Kingdom, France, Italy, and China are other important foreign countries which have taken larger amounts of American cotton during the first part of this season than during the like period last year.

Exports of Indian and Egyptian cotton

During the 5 weeks ended December 7 total exports of cotton from India amounted to 102,000 running bales of approximately 400 pounds, according to data from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. This was about the same as during the like period of last season but 22 percent less than in the corresponding 5 weeks of 1931-32. The amount exported from India to Japan and China combined for the 5 weeks was reported at 28,000 bales compared with 47,000 bales in the like period last season and 78,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1931. The larger exports to Great Britain and the Continent brought the total to all countries to approximately the same level as during the 5 weeks ended December 7, 1932 despite the much lower exports to Japan and China.

Total exports of Indian from August 1 to December 7 amounted to 397,000 bales which was 30,000 bales less than during the like period last season and 210,000 bales less than the corresponding period of 1931-32. The total exports to Japan and China from August 1 to the first week in December amounted to only 78,000 bales compared with 195,000 and 394,000 bales during the like periods of last season and the season before, a decrease of 60 and 80 percent respectively. The decrease in the exports to these two countries may be attributed to both the Japanese boycott on Indian cotton and the larger Chinese crop. Stocks of Indian cotton at Bombay in recent weeks have been larger than at the corresponding dates for several years.

Exports of Egyptian cotton during the 5 weeks ended December 6 which amounted to 208,000 bales of approximately 750 pounds were more than twice as large as exports during the like period last season and 48 percent larger than in the same period of 1931-32. Great Britain, the Continent and the United States all took considerably larger amounts than a year earlier. From August 1 to December 6 total exports from Egypt reached 434,000 bales, 69 percent higher than during a year earlier and were the largest for the period for several years, reflecting both the larger mill consumption in foreign countries and the larger Egyptian crop. Receipts of Egyptian cotton at Alexandria from August 1 to December 6 were 62 percent larger than during the like period last season and 6 percent larger than the corresponding date in 1931-32. The 1933-34 crop is estimated to be 77 percent larger than that of 1932-33.

Textile Situation

United States

Domestic mill consumption declined somewhat further during November, the total consumption amounting to 475,000 running bales compared with 504,000 bales during October and 502,000 bales during November 1932. A part

of the decline from October to November may be accounted for by a slightly smaller average number of working days for the country as a whole than during October, since more mills probably observe Thanksgiving than observe Columbus day. Except for these two holidays, the number of working days were the same in each month. Total cotton consumption in the United States from August 1 to the end of November amounted to 2,067,000 bales compared with 1,902,000 bales during the first 4 months of last season, 1,776,000 bales in 1931-32, and 1,605,000 bales from August 1 to November 30, 1930-31.

Sales of cotton goods during November were probably below production and shipments so that mills have reduced their unfilled order lists to the point where they feel further curtailment is desirable. While most mills are said to be very cautious about keeping down stocks the industry apparently felt the need for some uniform restriction on activity since representatives of the industry recently drew up a resolution requesting the N.R.A. to restrict the hours of machinery operations during December to 75 percent of the maximum previously allowed. This request has been granted and the cotton textile code revised so that during December the maximum number of hours the machinery may operate will be 60 per week instead of 80. Trade reports indicate that mills have succeeded in keeping their stocks of cotton textiles from accumulating. It is said that in some lines of goods, stocks are now smaller than a year ago. The extent to which the reduction in the maximum number of hours will restrict cotton consumption during December will probably be considerably less than 25 percent, the reduction in the maximum hours allowed, for two reasons. First, many mills were not operating at the maximum previously allowed and, second, many mills ordinarily shut down for several days around Christmas time anyway.

Great Britain

Cotton textile mill activity was apparently somewhat higher in November than in October, and considerably higher than in November last year. According to the New York Cotton Exchange Service spinning mill activity in November was around 80 percent of normal.

Exports of cotton piece goods increased considerably during November, the 170,000,000 square yards exported being 9 percent larger than in October, the highest for any month since last April, and the largest for the month of November since 1929. Exports by destination have not been received yet, but it is felt that this improvement in exports reflects greater shipments to India as a result of the increase in the Indian tariff on non-British piece goods which went into effect several months ago. During October exports of piece goods from Japan declined somewhat, due, it is said, to smaller exports to India.

Continental Europe 1/

The more pessimistic tone noted on continental European textile markets during recent months continued through November. New business of cotton spinning and weaving mills declined still further and, considered in the light of the

1/ Based largely on a report prepared by Donald F. Christy, Assistant Agricultural Attache' at Berlin, Germany, dated December 6.

more favorable developments earlier this year, is now below seasonal expectations. A curtailment of mill activity now seems imminent as new orders have not been sufficient to prevent a decline in the unfilled orders on hand. So far, however, such reductions in mill activity as have occurred have been very moderate, and old orders are still sufficient to keep mills on a fair level of occupation for some time to come.

With the exception of some parts of France, spinners' sales of cotton yarn during November were generally quiet. Business in cotton yarn was decidedly handicapped by the mild weather prevailing throughout the month. Since the first of December, however, a sharp change to winter weather has been experienced throughout the Continent, and an increase in business is expected. The above conditions have also brought a reduction in the sales of fabrics by cotton weavers.

As previously mentioned, the occupation of the continental cotton textile industry showed little change during November although a declining tendency was noted in places. Mill activity data for November are not yet available but in view of the decline in mill activity that occurred during September and October it is certain that the present level of spinner and weaver occupation is noticeably below that of the middle of the year.

Spinner buying of raw cotton during November continued in fair volume and price-fixing was also moderate. German spinners showed an increased buying interest immediately after the national election around the middle of the month, but this also slackened later on. Trade observers attribute the cautious attitude of European buyers to the uncertainty regarding currency developments in the United States.

Germany

Business of German cotton spinners and cotton weavers during the month of November remained rather quiet and was below seasonal expectations. The textile retail trade as well as ultimate consumers appeared reluctant to buy more than was absolutely necessary for immediate needs, and unfilled orders were generally reduced.

The detailed German spinner report for the month of October now available indicates a continued quiet business in cotton yarn, though some revival was noted in the case of special types of yarn. These latter probably include the fine counts which since the beginning of August have been protected by an increased tariff. Mill activity in October, the report says, was maintained and, for reasons just indicated, fine spinning mills showed a slight improvement in occupation. Strong domestic as well as foreign competition is said to have prevented an improvement in spinner margins. The detailed report of weavers for the month of October complains of unsatisfactory business in winter goods, as a result of mild October weather. New orders were especially disappointing in the case of colored fabrics, while some other branches showed a slight improvement. Exports of fabrics tended to increase, but the boycott against German goods is still felt. Mill occupation was maintained by old unfilled orders.

Mill activity during November appears to be little changed from October levels, but some slight recession is indicated as a result of the reduced level of unfilled orders.

German cotton spinner buying of raw cotton through Bremen was rather quiet during the first half of the month, but showed a considerable revival following the outcome of the elections. Toward the end of the month, though, buying was again much quieter. Price-fixing was also of moderate volume and import purchases by Bremen merchants moved about in line with spinner buying.

Czechoslovakia

The summer revival previously reported has given way to a rather unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Czechoslovakian cotton textile industry. The latest report from the Czechoslovakian National Bank indicates that the cotton industry's domestic sales are slow and unprofitable, because of cut-throat competition. Exports also continue very unsatisfactory, and mill occupation is low. Separate indices of mill occupation for the cotton industry are lacking but the monthly coal consumption of the textile industry as a whole is given in the following table.

Monthly coal consumption of textile industry, 1930-1933
(Hard coal equivalent)

Month	1930	1931	1932	1933
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Jan.	85.1	85.1	71.5	73.3
Feb.	79.5	75.4	68.1	62.9
Mar.	75.6	79.9	73.3	60.8
Apr.	71.7	70.5	66.5	46.4
May	64.8	56.9	44.2	51.2
June	57.4	58.5	43.1	44.8
July	53.9	60.6	39.0	43.8
Aug.	73.7	65.5	50.5	47.9
Sept.	83.6	74.7	58.7	57.3
Oct.	87.2	84.0	71.8	
Nov.	83.3	74.2	79.7	
Dec.	80.6	84.8	75.7	

Compiled from reports of the Czechoslovakian National Bank.

A survey of the export surplus of yarn and finished fabrics from Czechoslovakia shows that, as compared with last year, the yarn surplus has increased while the fabrics surplus has declined. This development is rather unfavorable and is causing much concern to industrial leaders. It appears that Czechoslovakian yarn exports have been used in expanding the factories and equipment for further processing in the Danubian countries.

The continuance of the present difficulties in the Czechoslovakian cotton industry is, as has been repeatedly pointed out, the result of the strong dependence of Czechoslovakia on its export business which in recent years has been so greatly reduced. Practically all the continental countries have shown a considerable improvement in the activity of cotton textile manufacturing during the current year and much of this improvement has been

retained, but this very fact has reduced the markets for Czechoslovakian exports. As a result the industry has shown considerable interest in recent proposals of Czechoslovakian economists to devaluate the currency by a moderate percentage and thus try to improve the export trade.

Austria

No new reports were received from Austria for the month of November, but no great changes are looked for. The latest report of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research relates to the month of September and indicates an improvement for that period. Developments in the 3 months July, August and September, 1933, as compared with the same period last year, are shown in the following table.

Cotton spinning mill activity - Percent of "full" capacity

	July	August	September
1932	58	61	62
1933	63	75	77

Cotton yarn production - Monthly average 1923-1931=100

	July	August	September
1932	82	87	89
1933	88	118	122

Unfilled orders and yarn stocks with spinners - Monthly average 1923-1931=100

	Unfilled orders				Yarn stocks		
	July	August	September		July	August	September
1932	67	82	79	1932	106	104	97
1933	101	112	120	1933	73	79	83

Weavers' raw material requirements, serving as index of weaving

Mill activity - Monthly average 1923-1931=100

	July	August	September
1932	112	121	108
1933	89	120	120

Compiled from reports of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research.

Mill activity of cotton spinners showed a significant increase in the above 3 months and was greatly above the same time last year. The same is true of the amount of unfilled orders on hand. Yarn stocks with cotton spinners, however, have increased but are still well below last year. Weaving mill activity in July was considerably below that month last year, but by September had risen to a level much above the same month in 1932.

Recent negotiations with Germany have cancelled much of the cotton yarn contingent previously reserved for Austrian cotton yarn to be imported into Germany. This reduction in the contingent is of no particular immediate importance for Austria as German takings of Austrian yarn have long remained well below the contingent.

France

Business of French cotton spinners and cotton weavers continued quiet during November and the revival which had been noted toward the end of October could not be sustained. Most of the complaints, as usual, were received from the district of Roubaix-Tourcoing, while Rouen, for the Normandy textile section, reported more favorable conditions and the yarn business there was apparently satisfactory. November sales of cotton fabrics were considerably below those of October. Developments were especially unsatisfactory in colored fabrics in which there has been a considerable accumulation of stocks. Hopes are maintained that the setting in of winter weather at the beginning of December will bring about some improvement in business.

Belgium

The recent Manchester State of Trade Report published in the October/November issue of the International Cotton Bulletin indicates that the cotton textile mills in Belgium were working at about 60 to 65 percent of their capacity during August and September. The export trade continued unsatisfactory and there were complaints of competition from Japan.

Italy

The Manchester State of Trade Report also confirmed our previous statement that mill occupation in the Italian cotton industry during the third quarter of 1933 was considerably above that of the corresponding period in 1932. It is indicated that most of the increase in production was absorbed by the domestic market while sales abroad continued unsatisfactory.

Poland

The Manchester report presents the following table on the mill activity of those cotton spinners controlled by the cartel:

An explanatory note indicates that the low occupation during the period February 20 to April 16, 1933, was due to a workers' strike.

Occupation of cotton spinning mills controlled by the cartel in Poland, stated periods, 1933

Period 4 weeks ended	Spindles under control	Average actual occupation	Percentage of 46 hours weekly full production
	Number	Average	Percent
Jan. 22	1,515,624	129.02	76.8
Feb. 19	1,515,624	136.22	77.4
Mar. 19	1,515,624	84.87	46.12
Apr. 16	1,515,624	96.96	52.70
Apr. 23	1,515,624	42.60	112.10
May 14	1,308,994	136.92	105.32
June 11	1,308,994	204.19	121.54
July 9	1,271,994	184.32	109.72
Aug. 6	1,271,994	222.49	120.92
Aug. 14	1,271,994	56.35	122.50
Sept. 3	1,515,624	163.11	125.47
Oct. 1	1,526,488	219.43	119.26

Japan 1/

Despite the declining exports of cotton piece goods from Japan during the past 3 months, weaving mill activity in Japan has apparently been well maintained and the demand for cotton yarn good, yarn stocks continued small, and yarn production maintained at very high levels. In fact, yarn production reached a new peak in November, the 281,000 bales produced representing an increase of 14,000 bales over the October production, which was the largest amount ever produced in Japan up to that time. The highest previous November production was in 1929 when 256,000 bales were produced.

As yet no word has been received of any settlement of the Indo-Japanese tariff-boycott controversy. Imports of Indian cotton into Japan have declined to almost nothing, the forward contracts made prior to the boycott apparently having been practically completed. During October imports of Indian cotton into Japan amounted to only 1,700 bales of approximately 478 pounds compared with 80,000 bales in October last year and an average of 80,000 bales in October during the 5 years ended 1932. Imports of American cotton during October, on the other hand, totaled 123,700 bales compared with 90,000 bales in October last year and a 5-year October average of 71,000 bales. Total imports of all cotton amounted to only 164,000 bales compared with 195,000 bales last year and an average for October during the last 5 years of 181,000 bales despite the record breaking mill activity. Stocks of raw cotton in Japan at the end of October were still rather large, the total of 445,000 bales approximately 500 pounds gross, comparing with 415,000 bales a year earlier, and 167,000 bales 3 years earlier. Stocks of American cotton on October 31 amounted to 274,000 bales compared with an average for the end of October of 121,000 bales during the 5 years ended 1932. Stocks of Indian cotton on October 31 this year totaled 137,000 bales compared

1/ Based largely on a report from Vice Consul McConoughy at Kobe, transmitted by radiogram December 1 from Shanghai, China.

with 73,000 bales a year earlier, 70,000 bales 2 years earlier and 53,000 bales at the end of October, 1930.

Cloth exports during October amounted to 171,000,000 square yards which represented a decline of 20,000,000 square yards from the August exports and about 30,000,000 as compared with November, 1932. Much of the decline in cloth exports is reported as being due to the decline in exports to India. The decline in exports has not been viewed with much concern apparently, judging from the record levels of mill activity. However, if exports of cloth from Japan to India continue to decline and Japan continues to take only a negligible amount of India cotton, it is felt that the situation will soon force an agreement of some sort between India and Japan concerning the tariff and boycott.

China 1/

Cotton textile mill activity in China during the first part of December was reported at about 90 percent of capacity, which was about the same as a month earlier, but much higher than the activity existing during the summer. It is reported that the tendency during the past few weeks has been for the mills to shift toward coarser yarns using the cheapest cotton available. This tendency indicates an effort to meet the demand from the interior of China which has been for low count cheap yarn. The yarn market in China has been in a serious condition in recent weeks, with the heavy stocks and lack of demand resulting in substantial declines in yarn prices. The Chinese Cotton Control Commission which was formed to relieve the conditions in the yarn market has recently sold the yarn purchased by it and it is said that the commission was not very successful in its effort to support the yarn market. The shifting toward the cheaper yarn is said to have created much interest in Indian Bengals which is quoted below Native Chinese cotton and considerably below American cotton.

The Chinese Loan Syndicate is said to have purchased about 13,000 bales of American cotton during November, some of which is for forward shipment and only for account of Chinese mills. It is said that Japanese mills in China are still not buying loan cotton, but are obtaining American cotton by direct purchase in the United States.

Production, acreage, and crop conditions

Estimated world production and acreage

On the basis of information received up to December 22 the preliminary estimate of the 1933-34 world cotton production is placed at 25,500,000 bales of 478 pounds. This represents an increase of 1,900,000 bales or 8 percent over the revised estimate of the 1932-33 crop which is now placed at 23,600,000 bales. While the present preliminary estimate of world production for the 1933-34 season is much larger than the estimate for the previous season it is still considerably less than the 27,500,000 bales produced in 1931-32 and 600,000 bales less than the average production for the 5 years ended 1931-32.

1/ Based largely on a radiogram from Agricultural Commissioner Dawson at Shanghai on December 13.

The present estimate of the domestic crop is 13,177,000 bales or 175,000 bales larger than the 1932 crop so that most of the increase in world estimate is due to increased production in foreign countries. The world estimate less the United States production gives a preliminary estimate of foreign production in 1933-34 of 12,323,000 bales. This figure is 1,725,000 bales larger than the estimate for 1932-33, and 840,000 bales larger than the average for the 5 years ended 1931-32. Most of the increase in the 1933-34 foreign production is accounted for by the return of more normal production in such countries as Egypt, India, Brazil, Mexico, and China after 1 or 2 years of reduced crops. Except for the reduction in these countries during the past two or three seasons foreign production in those years would have reached unusually high levels due to the marked increase which occurred in Russia. In 1931-32 and 1932-33 cotton production in Russia averaged about 1,800,000 bales compared with an average for the preceding 5 years of less than 1,533,000 bales. The principal increases in foreign production in 1933-34 as compared with 1932-33 occurred in Egypt, India, China, Brazil, and Mexico. See table on following page.

The present information on the 1933-34 acreage in the various cotton producing countries of the world indicates that the total world acreage may be around 74,700,000 acres compared with an estimated total in 1932-33 of 76,500,000 acres. The decrease of 2.4 percent in the 1933-34 estimated world total is accounted for by the decrease which occurred in the United States since acreage in most of the foreign countries increased somewhat. Despite the increase in foreign acreage the estimated world total is the smallest since 1923-24. The estimated total acreage outside the United States for 1933-34 is 44,556,000 acres compared with 40,561,000 acres in 1932-33, 42,095,000 acres in 1931-32 and an average of 41,124,000 acres for the 5 years ended 1931-32.

United States

The December estimate of domestic production indicated a 1933 crop of 13,177,000 bales of 478 pounds which represented an increase of 77,000 bales over the November estimate and an increase of 175,000 bales over the crop of 1932, but is almost 1,500,000 bales less than the average production in the United States during the 5 years ended 1932. The December estimate is the last official estimate on the size of the 1933 crop. In March the Bureau of the Census releases a report on ginnings which is subject to revisions and includes an estimate made by ginners as to the amount of cotton which will be ginned after the March canvass. This figure will be very near the final figure which will be released about the middle of May.

The 1933 crop is running decidedly lower in grade and longer in staple on the average than did the 1932 crop, according to reports on the grade and staple of the cotton ginned to certain dates during the season. Of the American upland cotton ginned in the United States from the 1933 crop up to November 1, 25 percent was white strict middling and above compared with 34 percent last year. The proportion of white strict low middling and below was also less than in 1932, but the percentage of spotted cotton was more than three times as large as in 1932. The proportion of 7/8 inch cotton and shorter decreased from 43 percent last year to 39 percent this year. There was an increase in the proportion of cotton 15/16 and 1 inch, a slight decrease in the proportion of cotton 1-1/16 to 1-1/8 inches, and an increase in 1-3/16 inches and longer.

Cotton: Acreage and production in countries reporting for 1933-34 with comparisons

Country	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	Percentage 1933-34 is of 1932-33
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Acreage					
United States	42,454	38,705	35,939	30,144	83.9
India 1/	23,014	22,358	20,761	22,714	109.4
Russia	3,911	5,346	5,139	4,800	93.4
China	5,228	4,800	5,630	6,000	106.6
Brazil	1,435	1,500	1,538	2,039	132.6
Egypt	2,162	1,747	1,135	1,873	165.0
Chosen	473	472	393	429	109.2
Mexico	390	319	188	421	223.9
Bulgaria	13	13	20	79	395.0
Greece	50	46	49	75	153.1
Syria and Lebanon	60	75	20	19	95.0
Spain	45	14	20	19	95.0
Eritrea	6	7	5	12	240.0
Total above countries	79,241	75,402	70,837	68,624	96.9
Est. world total	84,100	80,800	76,500	74,700	97.6
Est. total in foreign countries	41,646	42,095	40,561	44,556	109.8
Production	1,000 bales 478 lbs.net	1,000 bales 478 lbs.net	1,000 bales 478 lbs.net	1,000 bales 478 lbs.net	Percent
United States	13,932	17,095	13,002	13,177	101.3
India	4,373	3,368	3,779	4,000	105.8
China	2,250	1,785	2,260	2,500	110.6
Egypt	1,715	1,317	1,028	1,819	176.9
Russia	1,589	1,843	1,778	1,800	101.2
Brazil 2/	387	431	226	472	208.8
Mexico	178	210	95	223	234.7
Chosen	149	101	127	147	115.7
Bulgaria	4	5	8	21	262.5
Turkey (Asiatic)	74	91	28	19	67.9
Fr. Equatorial Africa	3	5	12	19	158.3
Spain	7	4	5	9	180.0
Total above countries	24,661	26,255	22,348	24,206	108.3
Est. world total	25,800	27,500	23,600	25,500	108.1
Est. total in foreign countries	11,868	10,405	10,598	12,323	116.3

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. From official sources, International Institute of Agriculture and estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

1/ Third estimate, which includes area planted up to December 1.

2/ The Northern States which during the 3 years 1930-31 through 1932-33, produced about 70 percent of the total Brazilian crop.

Egypt

The Egyptian Government is now estimating that the 1933-34 crop will be 1,819,000 bales of 478 pounds. This represents an increase of 177,000 bales over the early estimate and 791,000 bales or 77 percent over the 1932-33 crop, and 51,000 bales larger than the 1929-30 crop, the previous record crop. The area was reported at 1,873,000 acres which is 65 percent larger than the 1932-33 acreage, but less than the acreage in 1930-31, 1929-30, or 1925-26. The indicated yield per acre in Egypt for the 1933-34 crop is 464 pounds compared with a yield in 1932-33 of 433 pounds per acre and an average for the 10 years ended 1931-32 of 392 pounds per acre.

There are three factors which probably account for the unusually large yield per acre this season; first, very favorable growing and harvesting conditions, second, a considerably larger proportion of higher yielding varieties, and third, the fact that some of the land devoted to cotton this year has not been planted to cotton for 2 or 3 years due to the change in crop rotation which grew out of the reduced cotton acreage during 1931-32 and 1932-33. The acreage planted to Sakellaridis, (one of the smallest yielding varieties grown in Egypt) was only 21.7 percent of the total in 1933-34, whereas during the previous 5 years the Sakellaridis acreage averaged 38.9 percent of the total. This fact alone would tend to cause yields in Egypt to be high this season.

India

The first official estimate of Indian production was received by cable December 21 from the Indian Government. This estimate which was based on the acreage and conditions as of December 1, indicated that the total 1933-34 Indian crop might be expected to be around 4,000,000 bales of equivalent 478 pounds compared with an estimate of 3,779,000 bales for the 1932-33 crop. The average production, for the 10 years ended 1928-29 was 4,451,000 bales, according to the estimates of the Indian Government.

Russia

According to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome the acreage in cultivation in Russia in June was about 4,980,000 acres which, judging from Russian acreage reports in past years, indicates that the 1933-34 harvested area may not exceed 4,800,000 acres, which is 339,000 acres less than the reported harvested acreage for 1932-33. The Institute reported in October an estimate of 1,964,000 bales for the 1933-34 Russian crop, although this estimate is apparently based on the planted or in cultivation acreage. At any rate it is believed that the final production estimates when they become available will be somewhat lower than the current and earlier estimates. During the past few years the final estimate has been from 200,000 to 500,000 bales or more, below the early estimates.

On the basis of past yields, this year's reported acreage and probable harvested acreage, and reports on crop conditions, it is estimated by this Bureau that the 1933-34 crop will be about the same as last season's crop. The 1932-33 crop is now reported at 1,778,000 bales so that for the present at least the preliminary estimate for 1933-34 is placed at 1,800,000 bales. This

compares with the average production for the 5 years ended 1932-33 of 1,533,000 bales, and an average for the 5 years ended 1930-31 of less than 1,200,000 bales.

This year's cotton procurings are nearing completion earlier than last year, according to a report from the Agricultural Attache's office in Berlin prepared in early December. Total procurings for the Union as a whole were reported to have equalled 84.1 percent of the yearly plan on November 20, which is a considerable improvement over procurings at the same time a year ago. Procurings on November 25, 1932 - the nearest comparable date available - amounted to only 68.5 percent of the yearly plan. This favorable development of cotton procurings has apparently been due to good progress in the chief cotton producing region of the Union - Middle Asia - where fully 93 percent of the yearly plan was delivered by November 25, this year. On the other hand, developments in the so-called "new cotton regions" are very unsatisfactory, with procurings from Ukraine less than 1 percent of the yearly plan at the end of November. There, it appears, the crop has turned out very unsatisfactory and the plan is not expected to be fulfilled. It is true, weather conditions were extremely unfavorable for cotton growing this year in Ukraine. Weather reports from the Kherson station (South Ukraine) indicate the lowest summer temperatures in the past 52 years as well as an abundance of rainfall, cloudy days, and early frosts. However, it is stated that weather developments were not alone responsible for the conditions in Ukraine as notwithstanding these meteorological conditions the best collectives were able to harvest 3 - 5 centners per hectare. Late sowing, but above all improper cultivation and late harvesting were largely responsible for the crop failure in Ukraine. The fact that cotton in Ukraine is a very secondary and new crop has apparently resulted in a very careless attitude toward all field work connected with that crop. As a result, it is reported that 73 percent of all the cotton acreage was badly infested with weeds.

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